

Effective August 1, 2007, changes are being made to TEAMS affecting the availability of FS benefits which have not been used in the past 365 days. The associated notice text and the timing of the notice are being changed (the notice will be sent sooner). Alert changes are also being made, which will result in fewer alerts and more meaningful alerts.

Alert Messages

The FS benefit aging alert message will now be sent only if the aged amount is an even dollar amount of \$10 or more, the last use date for the benefit is 90 days or more and the case is owned by an open caseload. The text of the alert will be changed depending on the last use date. If the last use date is 90 to 179 days old the text will state:

EBT FS BENEFITS NOT ACCESSED IN 90 DAYS OR MORE

If the last use date is 180 days old or older, the text will state:

EBT FS BENEFITS NOT ACCESSED IN 180 DAYS OR MORE

The TANF benefit aging alert message will no longer be sent.

F812 (FS Expungement Warning) Notice Timing

All cases approaching expungement of FS benefits from the Montana Access system will now receive timely notice. Currently, the notice is being sent at the beginning of the 12th month; when these changes are implemented, notices will be sent at the beginning of the 11th month. Updates are being made to the Montana Access system for the actual timing of expungements.

F812 Notice Text

The F812 notice will be changed. The overpayment claim information will be removed from the notice and the date the benefits become 366 days old will be added to the notice. The text in the notice that previously stated "will be cancelled effective the 20th day of this month" will be changed to "will be cancelled effective MM-DD-CCYY", where MM-DD-CCYY will be the 366th day after the date the FS benefits were last used.

August 2007 – Implementation Notes

August 2007 is the conversion month for these changes. Therefore, notices will be sent for cases with benefits aged 11 months as well as cases with benefits aged 12 months.

- Cases with FS benefits aged 11 months on August 1 will receive the new notice text containing the 366th date. If benefits are not accessed on these cases, the funds will be expunged the end of September 2007.
- Cases with benefits aged 12 months on August 1 will receive the old notice text notice stating that the FS benefits will be cancelled the 20th day of this month. If benefits are not accessed on these cases, the funds will be expunged the end of August 2007.

Note: It is possible for a case to get both notices if they have benefits aged both 11 and 12 months.